

Originator Engineering	Item Adopt Recommendations from the Highwood Drive Corridor and Intersection Traffic Study		# 7.1
Agenda Section Transportation and Utility Improvements	By <i>ALM</i> ALM	Approved	Date June 2, 2014

## HANDOUTS

### Resident comments received after Friday, May 30, 2014.

- Anne Heller, 8409 Xylon Cir
- Duane G. Anderson, 7600 Autumn Chace Dr
- Ron Wilkinson, 7335 Autumn Chace Cir

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## Marohn, Amy

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**From:** Richard Heller <abheller@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 31, 2014 5:22 PM  
**To:** Marohn, Amy  
**Subject:** Highwood Drive corridor

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello Amy,

I am writing regarding the Highwood Dr. corridor plans. I attended the previous meeting but am unable to attend this Monday's (June 2) meeting.

My concern with making Highwood Dr. 2 lanes is the back-up of traffic during peak hours would increase without the second lane available for drivers making turns. Also, with recent road work being done, one lane was closed to traffic. Having only 1 lane available, what will happen when there are vehicles and workers, garbage and trash trucks stopping frequently, as well as delivery trucks and if there is any accident. The current 2 lanes are necessary to avoid huge back-ups. In addition, it is safer for bicyclists since drivers can use the second lane to safely go around the cyclists. I see more potential for tie ups as well as accidents with only one lane in each direction.

Anne Heller  
8409 Xylon Circle

## **Marohn, Amy**

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**From:** Duane G. Anderson <duane7600@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 02, 2014 10:45 AM  
**To:** Marohn, Amy  
**Subject:** Public Hearing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I will be unable to attend the public meeting regarding Highwood Drive Study and want to make all involved aware of my position. I'm a long time Bloomington resident, own property on Highwood Drive and am a biker, owning six bicycles between my wife and myself.

### **Highwood Drive Corridor**

I am against going from a four lane roadway down to two on Highwood Drive and here are my reasons:

- First and foremost, it is a waste of taxpayer money.
- 40 or 50 years ago some traffic engineer with the city understood that as the city grew, roads would need to be big enough to handle traffic. Highwood Drive was designed as a "four lane cut through" **not** a "residential street". It was built to allow traffic to move quickly and efficiently through the area.
- A two lane roadway with left turn lanes means that you would have to come to almost a complete stop for every car making a right turn, you would use more fuel and take more time. Currently you have the ability to go around in the left lane making traffic flow more efficient.
- There isn't enough bike traffic to warrant these changes. And, only the "hard core bikers" can make it up the hill from West Bush Lake Road to Pennsylvania Avenue. The average biker walks their bike or avoids the route altogether.
- The bike riding season is at best only four months out of the year. It's nonsense to give up two traffic lanes and waste money for such a short season.
- West Bloomington residents have only **two** main roads to travel east – west. Highwood Drive on the north side and Old Shakopee Road on the south. No road in between, which would make it more difficult for those on the north side.
- Nobody in West Bloomington uses their bike to go to work, bring their 8 bags of groceries home, take their kids to soccer or basketball practice or go to this meeting. We all accomplish these things using our cars, trucks, mini vans or SUV's.

Sincerely,

Duane G. Anderson

7600 Autumn Chace Drive

## Marohn, Amy

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**From:** Ron and Karen <rokawilk@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 02, 2014 2:30 PM  
**To:** Marohn, Amy  
**Subject:** Highwood Study

Unfortunately, I missed the two planning meetings last year but hope to make the Council meeting tonight. But just wanted to share a couple of thoughts. I'm mixed about making Highwood just one lane in either direction. On the one hand I think the overall effect would be to slow traffic down and discourage people from using Highwood rather than 494. That is good. On the other hand I've seen a lot of slower cars on Highwood and a lot of faster cars going past them in the left lane and so with only one lane there is going to be more frustration and bumper drivers. But if I had to choose I think I would go with the one lane as I think it is more neighborhood friendly.

My biggest concern when I saw the notice of the Council meeting was that in the long range planning that there was thinking (I saw I was mistaken when I actually looked at the plans) about making East Bush Lake Rd. four lanes all the way from the railroad tracks up to Highwood Drive. I would be absolutely opposed to this as I really like coming up the hill and getting a sense that one is getting into the countryside. I would be less opposed to just making additional lanes at the East Bush Lake Rd. - Highwood intersection although I am still concerned about how much additional land this would take. I am also concerned about the roundabout idea. I think roundabouts become less user friendly when there is heavy traffic. I have been on the frontage road coming east from Eden Prairie Shopping Center during traffic time and have had trouble getting on the first roundabout because so much traffic keeps coming on the roundabout from the left. The new traffic light option for East Bush Lake Rd. and Highwood might be a better option.

Thanks for your attention.

Ron Wilkinson  
7335 Autumn Chace Circle  
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